

U.S. Embassy Yerevan, Armenia

Immigrant Visa Unit

GENERAL INFORMATION & REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

for IR and CR category immigrant visa applicants

1 American Avenue

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- Please carefully read these instructions and prepare the attached list of required documents before your interview. All documents must be complete and presented at the time of your interview.
- **Children** immigrating with you must also be present at the interview.
- The required documents, unless specified otherwise, must be completed for **each applicant**.
- For all required documents, you must present **the original document and a true copy (or as indicated below)**. These documents are not required if you have already sent these documents to the State Department's National Visa Center. The National Visa Center will send all your original documents to the Consular Section with your case file. The notarized translation must include a signed statement from the translator that certifies that the translation is true and complete, and that the translator is competent to complete the translation.
- **Payment (when applicable)**. The Consular Section accepts payment in U.S. dollars and Armenian drams. Credit cards are not accepted. If your visa fee has been paid in advance, you do not need to pay again.
- **Tickets**. We strongly advise you not to buy tickets or make any permanent travel arrangements before you receive your visa. The Consular Section cannot guarantee when you will receive your visa.

PHOTOGRAPH REQUIREMENTS (5 X 5 CM)

The photograph must be 1) 5x5 cm; 2) "Full Face", i.e., one in which the applicant is facing the camera directly with the ears exposed, the face covering about 50 percent photo area; 3) have a white background; 4) clearly identify the applicant; and 5) not be any older than six-months old from the date of the interview. Head coverings and hats are only acceptable due to religious beliefs. Sunglasses or other paraphernalia are not acceptable, unless required for medical reasons (prescription eye-glasses (as long as there is no glare) or an eye patch, for example).



GENERAL INFORMATION & REQUIRED DOCUMENTS*

for IR and CR category immigrant visa applicants

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. ***DS-230 Immigrant visa application form (only required if not previously submitted to NVC):*** Filled out in English (parts 1 and 2). Please do not leave any questions blank on the application forms. Questions that do not apply to the applicant's particular situation should be answered "N/A" or "Not Applicable".
2. ***Travel passport:*** Full photocopy of passport must be provided. The beneficiary's passport must be valid for travel to the United States and must have at least eight months validity beyond the issuance date of the visa. Children may be included in a parent's passport, but, if over the age of 16, they must have their photograph attached to the passport. **Please do not send your original passport.** You must present your passport at the interview date.
3. ***Birth certificate of Petitioner for IR-5 Petitioners ONLY:*** Original and photocopy must be provided. Applicants born in a country other than their country of citizenship must present a birth-certificate from the country in which they were born.
4. ***Birth certificate of Beneficiary and any accompanying Family Members:*** Original and photocopy must be provided. Applicants born in a country other than their country of citizenship must present a birth-certificate from the country in which they were born.
5. ***Marriage certificate of Petitioner for IR-1 and CR-1 (and as appropriate for IR-2 and CR-2) ONLY:*** Original and photocopy must be provided. If the marriage took place in a country other than Armenia or US, an English translation of the foreign marriage certificate is also required.
6. ***Marriage certificate of Beneficiary for IR-1 and CR-1 and IR-5 Fathers ONLY:*** Original and photocopy must be provided. If the marriage took place in a country other than Armenia or US, an English translation of the foreign marriage certificate is also required.
7. ***Evidence of termination of prior marriage(s) of Petitioner for IR-1 and CR-1 (as appropriate) ONLY, such as Divorce Certificate or Death Certificate of spouse (if applicable):*** Original and photocopy must be provided. For U.S. documents, a certified copy is sufficient rather than an original. If the divorce took place in a country other than Armenia or US, an English translation of the foreign document is also required.
8. ***Evidence of termination of prior marriage(s) of Beneficiary for IR-1 and CR-1 (as appropriate) and IR-5 Fathers ONLY, such as Divorce Certificate or Death Certificate of spouse (if applicable):*** Original and photocopy must be provided. For U.S. documents, a certified copy is sufficient rather than an original. If the divorce took place in a country other than Armenia or US, an English translation of the foreign document is also required.
9. ***Police Certificates:*** Applicants are required to submit a police certificate from the country of the applicant's nationality and current residence, if residence in such country exceeds six months. Police certificates are also required from all other countries where the applicant has resided for at least one year. Regardless of the length of residence, a police certificate must also be obtained

from the police authorities of any place where the applicant has been arrested for any reason (except for the US). Original Armenian police certificates are required. For all other countries, an original or copy of the police certificate is required, along with an English translation if the police certificate is not in Armenian or English.

10. ***Military Documents:*** Men aged 18 and over must present their original military booklet or military registration document.
11. ***Court and Prison Documents:*** Persons convicted of a crime must obtain a certified copy or original of each court record and any prison record, even if the beneficiary has been pardoned or granted amnesty.
12. ***Other Court Documents:*** Originals or certified copies of court records regarding name changes, age amendments, adoption and similar subjects must also be submitted.
13. ***Proof of Relationship for IR-1 and CR-1 Beneficiaries:*** It is highly advisable to bring photos of petitioner and beneficiary together, letters to one another, phone bills, airplane tickets, emails, etc. in order to better establish a bona fide relationship.
14. ***Medical Exam Results:*** Your medical exam must be conducted by one of the Embassy's panel physicians (see website for additional information). It takes approximately two days to process the results of the medical exam. For more information regarding the medical exam please contact the panel physicians directly.
15. ***Color photographs (see sample on page 1):*** You must present two (2) 5X5 cm photographs for your visa, and another three (3) 3X4 cm photographs for your medical exam
16. ***Financial Documents:***
 - **Petitioner Required Documents:**
 - ***Form I-864 Affidavit of Support: ORIGINAL ONLY*** for the primary applicant, but a photocopy is sufficient for any family members who are benefiting from the primary applicant's immigrant visa petition.
 - ***Form I-864A for any Petitioner's Household Member:*** This form must be signed by the petitioner and petitioner's household member if the petitioner is using their combined household income to meet the sponsorship minimum. An ORIGINAL is required for the primary applicant, but a photocopy is sufficient for any family members who are benefiting from the primary applicant's immigrant visa petition.
 - ***1040 tax form and W2s that support the Petitioner's I-864 or I-864A:*** If tax returns are not available, please provide transcripts from the IRS. Updated tax forms and W2s are highly advised to be brought to the interview.
 - ***If the petitioner did NOT pay any taxes to support the Petitioner's I-864:*** Petitioner must provide a valid explanation as to why the petitioner did not pay taxes.
 - ***Petitioner's Household Member's US ID:*** A copy of the petitioner's household member's US passport picture page or green card is required.
 - **Joint Sponsor Required Documents:** If the petitioner does not qualify to sponsor the applicant financially, then a beneficiary is required to find a joint sponsor with sufficient funds to sponsor the beneficiary (and his or her family (as applicable)).
 - ***Form I-864 Affidavit of Support: ORIGINAL ONLY*** for the primary applicant, but a photocopy is sufficient for any family members who are benefiting from the primary applicant's immigrant visa petition.

- ***Form I-864A for any Joint Sponsor's Household Member:*** This form must be signed by the joint sponsor and any applicable joint sponsor's household member if the joint sponsor is using his or her combined household income to meet the sponsorship minimum. An ORIGINAL is required for the primary applicant, but a photocopy is sufficient for any family members who are benefiting from the primary applicant's immigrant visa petition.
- ***1040 tax form and W2s that support the Joint Sponsor's I-864 or I-864A:*** If tax returns are not available, please provide transcripts from the IRS. Updated tax forms and W2s for the current year are highly advised to be brought to the interview.
- ***Joint Sponsor and/or any Joint Sponsor Household Member US ID:*** A copy of the joint sponsor and/or his or her household member's US passport picture page or green card is required.

17. ***Domicile of Petitioner:*** The law requires that sponsors be domiciled (live) in any of the States of the United States, the District of Columbia, or any territory or possession of the United States.

Please note that Federal law prohibits a joint sponsor from sponsoring an immigrant when the petitioner does not have a domicile in the United States. The petitioner must first meet all the requirements for being a sponsor (age, domicile and citizenship) before a joint sponsor will be considered. Domicile is a complex issue and must be determined on a case by case basis. To qualify as a sponsor, a petitioner who is residing abroad must have a principal residence in the U.S. and intend to maintain that residence for the foreseeable future. Lawful permanent resident (LPR) sponsors must show they are maintaining their LPR status.

- If you are concerned that domicile might be an issue for your application, please provide sufficient proof of any documents to show that the petitioner's domicile is in fact the United States, the District of Columbia, or any territory or possession of the United States.

****NOTE: Presentation of the above documents does not guarantee visa issuance. Additional documents may be required on a case-by-case basis.***